

HSEM UPDATE

St. Clair County Office of Emergency Management Homeland Security
295 N. Airport Dr. Kimball, MI 48074 (810)989-6965

St. Clair County, MI

09/28/2017

Issue 71

Survival Rival Challenge Battle of the Badges

And the winner is....

Bill Adams, Tri Hospital EMS representing EMS



Law came in 2nd
Fire came in 3rd

Thank you all that attended
or donated to the 1st
Annual YRC Pancake
Breakfast.

The Youth served 55
people!
They are looking forward to
starting their community
projects.



Thank you Fort Gratiot Applebee's
for hosting the event!



Can you escape? St. Clair County Emergency Management/Ready Corps portable Escape Room was a success. It's all about preparedness. It will be in Fort Gratiot Twp. 9/30 at Scarecrow Saturday.



WEATHER SPOTTER TRAINING

The National Weather Service will conduct a Winter Weather Spotter Training Class on October 16, 2017, 7:00 p.m. at the St. Clair County Administration Building Auditorium, 200 Grand River, Port Huron. The National Weather Service and your local Emergency Management Office needs your help. When severe weather and tornadoes hit, volunteer Skywarn spotters assist both the NWS and local law enforcement to issue the necessary warnings to help save lives. In the winter, warnings for winter storms are also issued for the same reason. We need that valuable information that only a spotter can provide to help insure the most accurate and timely warnings, even in the winter.

Topics of discussion will include snow, ice, floods, non-thunderstorm high winds, and dense fog, measuring snowfall, estimating ice accumulation, estimating wind speeds, winter weather definitions, NWS watches, warnings and advisories, winter weather safety, and the 2017-2018 winter outlooks. Please join us.

Open to the public. There is **no charge** for the class or obligation to join.

Call Julie Wallace at the Office of Emergency Management 989-6965 or email: jwallace@stclaircounty.org to register.

MICIMS Training/Refresher

There will be another MICIMS Training
October 17th 2017 9:00 am – 11:30 am.
The course will be at 295 Airport Dr., In Kimball

If you are in need of a refresher,
Email: pbaunoch@stclaircounty.org to sign up.



Coming Soon: Fire Prevention Week

This year's theme is:

Every Second Counts: Plan 2 ways out!

Fire Prevention week is October 8th – 14th.

There is an interesting history of fire prevention week on the NFPA website:

<http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/campaigns/fire-prevention-week/about-fire-prevention-week>.

Lessons Learned from the recent Hurricanes:

Many families found that they were not prepared for a disaster of this magnitude. They found that during a disaster is NOT the time to prepare. Many did not have the supplies needed or the resources to get the supplies. The store shelves were empty, the line for fuel was very long, and there was no guarantee that there would be fuel when it was your turn. Some chose to shelter in place and some did not have the resources to evacuate. Whether it was a mobility issue or if they just plain did not know where to go.

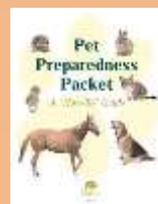
These disasters made a lot of people stop and think about how they could prepare for any type disaster event in the future.

Although we don't have hurricanes here, we do have tornados and other severe weather like wind storms, and winter storms. We get power outages and a hazardous material releases or spill is not out of the question. Do you remember the tremors we felt from an earthquake in the past, what if that were more severe?

Here in St. Clair County we like to tell people how to prepare and provide information and resources on our website: www.bereadystclaircounty.org but are our citizens using this information? We do not know. We try to encourage our citizens to prepare, but ultimately it is your responsibility.

Do you know your neighbors? Could you work together with your neighbors to make sure your neighborhood is prepared in case of a disaster. Every neighbor has a skill; from knowing how to cook to carpentry skills or being an organizer, all of this will help when a disaster strikes. We have a Ready Neighborhood program that could help bring you all together.

Our office is always ready to help you be prepared.



The SCC Homeland Security and Emergency Management submitted a nomination for 2017 FEMA Individual and Community Preparedness Awards and received an honorable mention in the Outstanding Achievement in Youth Preparedness Award category. The nomination focused on the activities of our Youth Readiness Council and volunteers for their effort to promote safety and preparedness for St. Clair County youth.

The 2017 FEMA Individual and Community Preparedness Awards recognizes innovative local practices and achievements by honoring individuals, organizations, and jurisdictions that have made outstanding contributions toward strengthening their community to prepare for, respond to, and recover from a disaster. Additionally, the Awards program helps to generate conversation at the neighborhood level, provides models of preparedness programs, and demonstrates how to implement preparedness programs in any community.

We want to thank our Youth Readiness Council and the great volunteers that participated in training the youth of our county.





Computernapping, are you prepared?

Recently Montgomery County, AL was struck by the computernappers also called a ransomware attack. This is the one that requires a hefty ransom to restore your files. It brought their computer systems to a halt. They had to pay over \$37,000 and the files were returned but they are still struggling to get back up and running again. This could happen to anybody. We hear it in the news all too often; hackers seem to be hacking more and more. Are we too dependent on our computer systems? What if you had a power outage? Or how would your business handle a cyber-attack on your computer system? Would you be able to function? Do you have a plan in place?



Text to 911

St. Clair County Central Dispatch has a new service available. It is *Text to 911*. With this service you can send a text message with the recipient being 911. The Dispatcher will receive your text and reply with questions. The Dispatcher does not have any information on your location or your name, just the phone number you are texting from. So if you have an emergency it is best to just call 911, but if you can't talk or don't want to be heard for some reason then you have this option. The Dispatch Center wants you to remember "call if you can-text if you must". Something else important about this service is that it works best with the application that came with your phone. Third-party apps have been known not to work correctly with this service.

Or visit our website at: www.bereadystclaircounty.org

